

to go aloft for training as an aerial battler.

Only men of quickest mental alertness and steadiest nerves could pass them.

That Vernon Castle, so soon after arriving in England, should win a commission as lieutenant in the royal flying corps argues well for his aptitude as a pupil in this newest, most romantic and most dangerous form of fighting.

If Vernon Castle's brains are scattered, as his detractors say, providence must have scattered them most judiciously.

The artificial tests are a duplicate, as nearly as they can be imitated, of the difficulties and dangers to be met aloft over the battlefield when dodging shells from below or maneuvering for position to engage in a duel with a hostile airman. These are some of the amazing tests to which the airmen are subjected:

To test ability to stand the strain on his hands by maneuvers in which he works rhythmically like the controls of an aeroplane. To pass he must furnish an effort equivalent to 1,446 foot-pounds before showing signs of fatigue.

To prove rapidity of perception, placed before a clock dial, the pupil has to keep his eye on the second hand, and the instant it starts moving he must stop it by pressing a button in twenty-three hundredths of a second!

While the pupil's hands are in contact with a sensitive registering machine, which also responds to the slightest irregular movements of the heart and lungs, he is drenched with cold water, startled by a magnesium flash or by a revolver's discharge behind his head.

Aviation demands men of live nerve, who can vitalize the dead planes of an aeroplane so they become as sensitive as the wings of a swallow. These highly strung bird-men must adapt themselves to the ragaries of flight with a quickness

impossible to the nerveless type of man, whose imagination is dull, and whose nervous reactions are sluggish.

Maybe dancing and preparedness are complementary terms!

Wilbur Wright once told me he always picked men with temperament for his aviators. He would choose a fiddler as against a college fullback, every time. He believed many accidents that discredited flying in the U. S. in the early days were due to men, not constituted by delicacy of organization for this work, entering the game to display in the air an unimaginative kind of physical daring.

Vernon Castle, has the heartfelt thanks of dancing men, for by his example does not nimbleness of toe betoken possession of the stuff of which heroes are made?

--- —o—o— SWEET CUCUMBER PICKLES

Take 20 small cucumbers; do not use those that are "fat" and seedy; lay cucumbers evenly in a jar or crock and cover with a brine made of coarse salt. Begin by using 3 cups of salt to a gallon of water; if an egg will not float, add more salt until it does. Pour the brine over the cucumbers and allow them to stand over night; take cucumbers from brine and drop them into cold water for five minutes, then drain; now wipe each cucumber carefully and put them into glass jars. Fill jars with pickles and turn jar upside down on broiler or toaster to allow all the brine to drain off.

Put two quarts of cider vinegar into sauce pan, add eight pounds of light brown sugar, two ounces of mustard seed, one ounce of stick cinnamon, twelve small red pepper pods and a little whole mace. Set pan over slow fire and slowly bring to boiling point; then turn over pickles. Seal while hot and as the jars cool put on the tops.

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The centennial of gas lighting in this country has just taken place